

## *Designing R.A.F.T.S. Writing Assignments*

Effective writing assignments enable students to write fluently and purposefully for an audience. R.A.F.T.S. can help teachers identify and incorporate the elements of an effective writing assignment.

**R**ole of the writer – helps the writer decide on point of view and voice.

**A**udience for the piece of writing – reminds the writer that he must communicate ideas to someone else; helps writer determine content and style.

**F**ormat of the material – helps the writer organize ideas and employ the conventions of format, such as letters, interviews, and story problems.

**T**opic or subject of the piece of writing – helps the writer focus on main ideas.

**S**trong verb – directs the writer to the writing purpose, e.g., persuade, analyze, create, predict, compare, defend, evaluate.

***R.A.F.T***  
***Classroom Prompts***

**R – role**

**A – audience**

**F – format**

**T – topic**

**S – strong verb**

EXAMPLE:

You are Ulysses on you journey home from Troy affter being gone for over  
(role)  
ten years. Write a letter to your wife Penelope explaining why you  
(format) (audience) (strong verb)  
won't make it home for dinner, AGAIN.  
(topic)

## *Forms of Writing For Assignments*

(An incomplete listing)

Advertisements	Expense accounts and defense	Memos
Affidavits	Explications	Menus
Analytical paragraphs/papers	Fact Sheets	Messages to/from the past/future
Anecdotes/stories	Five paragraph themes	Minutes of meetings
Announcements	Graffiti	Monologue
Applications	Greeting card or text	Mottoes
Bibliography annotations	Historical accounts	News stories – paper/radio/TV
Biographical sketches	Imaginative Literature: Fairy tales, myths, novels, plays	Orations
Blurbs: yearbook pictures	Indexes	Package copy
Blurbs: TV lists/book covers	Instructions	Paraphrases
Board game instructions	Internet	Parodies
Brochures	Interviews (real/imaginary)	Personalized license plates
Bumper stickers	Introduction	Persuasive: to public officials, to the editor, recommendations
Captions	Itineraries	Placards
Case studies	Job specifications	Poems:
Children's books	Journal entries	Villanelle
Commentaries	Lab reports	Haiku
Comparison paragraphs/papers	Las wills and testaments	Sonnets
Computer Programs	Legal briefs	Prayers
Constitution articles	Legislation	Précis
Consumer guide or report	Lessons plans	Prophecies and predictions
Contest entries (25 words)	Letters:	Proposals
Contrast paragraphs/papers	Advice	Psychiatrists' notes
Debate outlines/notes	Application/	Public notices
Declarations	Resignation	Public Statements
Definitions	Complaint	Reaction papers
Dialogues	Congratulation	Requests
Dictionary entries	From imaginary places	Responses and rebuttals
Directions: Guide to places, how-to, survival manuals	Inquiry	Resumes
Editorials	Lists	Reviews:
E-mail	Math notes/observations	Books
Encyclopedia entries	Math problem solutions	Movies
Environmental impact reports	Math record books	Outside reading
Epitaphs	Math story problems	Radio/TV programs
Eulogies		

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Science fiction

Screenplays

Sermons

Specifications for reports

Speeches: expository speeches, nominating speeches

Story boards for animation

Story Continuations

Summaries

Table of contents

Telegrams

Telephone dialogues

Test questions

Thumbnail sketches:

    Content idea

    Famous people

    Historical events

    Places

Time capsule lists

Translations

Treaties

Umpire reports

Undercover reports

Wanted posters

War communiqués

Word puzzles and games

Ship's logos

Short stories

Skits

Side show scripts

Slogans

Songs and ballads

## *Strong Verbs for R.A.F.T.S. Assignments*

align  
annotate  
apply  
brainstorm  
cancel  
carve  
charge  
coalesce  
communicate  
connect  
consider  
construct  
contest  
create  
decipher  
delineate  
diagnose  
divulge  
embellish  
engrave  
explain  
harmonize  
imagine  
inform  
investigate  
memorize mold  
participate  
photograph  
quote  
reconstruct  
reflect  
relate  
remind  
rhyme  
search  
shave  
specify  
suppress

understand  
warn  
amaze  
announce  
assess  
browse  
capitulate  
censor  
charm  
collapse  
compare  
connive  
consolidate  
consume  
decorate  
describe  
digest  
edit  
empathize  
eradicate  
express yourself  
identify  
immortalize  
inspect  
link  
metamorphasize  
navigate  
persuade  
plagiarize  
recapitulate  
regurgitate  
remunerate  
script  
separate  
shrink  
summarize  
tell  
urge

winnow  
analyze  
annoy  
assimilate  
cajole  
capture  
characterize  
clarify  
combine  
contemplate  
count  
critique  
define  
design  
distinguish  
elucidate  
encourage  
exemplify  
fold  
illuminate  
improvise  
melt  
modify orchestrate  
peruse  
ponder  
reconcile  
record  
reject  
remark  
review scrutinize  
shrivel  
trigger  
visualize